

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. **SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT**

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend claims 1, 29, 30 and 35.
2. Cancel claims 28 and 37-39.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Office Action indicates that claims 28-30 and 37 recite allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. By this Amendment, the features of allowable claims 28 and 37 are incorporated into independent claims 1 and 35, respectively. Claims 28 and 37 are then canceled. As a result, it is believed that all of claims 1-7 and 29-36 are allowable.

C. **PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 31-36, 38 and 39 under 35 USC §103(a) over JP 02-130849 to Toshifumi et al. (hereinafter “Toshifumi”), in view of US Patent No. 4,348,139 to Hassan et al. (hereinafter “Hassan”), and further in view of US Patent No. 5,174,881 to Iwasaki et al. (hereinafter “Iwasaki”). The Office Action also rejects claim 3 under 35 USC §103(a) over Toshifumi, in view of Hassan, and further in view of Iwasaki and US Patent Publication No. 2004/0211516 to Rigali et al. (hereinafter “Rigali”). The Office Action further rejects claims 4-6 under 35 USC §103(a) over Toshifumi, in view of Hassan, and

further in view of Iwasaki and US Patent No. 2002/09139481 to Baxter et al. (hereinafter "Baxter"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the features of allowable claims 28 and 37 are incorporated into independent claims 1 and 35, respectively. Claims 28 and 37 are then canceled. Also, claims 38 and 39 are canceled. As a result of these changes, it is believed that all remaining claims are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

D. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,
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